Letters to the Editor

Why Pick on Him?

Why is it lately so many seem to pick on our highways minister? It is most disgusting. He is a loyal servant and a good-living man, knows his job and gets things done.

I do not see that his expenses are high. I could mention others who do much less, but their expenses do not show. How come?

If all took the same interest in their job as Mr. P. A. Gaglardi, plenty more would be done.

J. C. LOWE.

1420 Bedford Avenue, Nanaimo.

Cab Drivers Defended

This common subject of bootlegging alcohol should be dealt with after clear thinking. After having used taxi cabs all my 40 years' residence in Victoria, I have come to the conclusion that the drivers are a very fine lot of men and of necessity very careful drivers.

As regards bootlegging it appears to me that the guilty-inclined people are not the drivers but the people who tempt them with offers of money to provide liquor after the stores are closed. By offering this money these people drag a very few of the drivers from the straight road, which without the bribe they would have kept. I am not against the drinking of alcohol when in moderation.

I advise readers to study the laws under which the taxi drivers ply for hire. They will then clearly understand what the law says.

FREDERICK V. LONGSTAFF.

50 King George Terrace.

Why Learn French?

May I, with all due respect for our French-Canadian brothers in Quebec, condone (sic) the words of John D. Taylor and the PTA for their proposal to cut down on hygiene education in favor of French lessons? How many people, after 10 years away from school, can still remember much more than a smattering of French? Why do so many seemingly learned people think our children need so much French stuffed into them?

Hygiene or home-economics are in my opinion far more essential to the younger generation than the ability to mutter a few unintelligible words of a language far removed from B.C.

ERNEST V. WILSON.

1700 Garnet Road.

Red Barbarians

I must answer Mr. McNaughton's letter, for I feel that he must have written in ignorance of the facts. We all know the Communists are barbarians, torturers and murderers. To our sorrow we read of the many thousands that were slaughtered: Americans and their own people also. To trade with them would be like taking blood money, and all right thinking people don't want that kind of business.

Not very long ago the Reds in China dragged some friends of mine through the crowded streets, ropes around their bodies. The people were allowed to curse them, spit on them, as they were pushed towards a mock trial. They were Sister of Charity nuns, whose only crime was ministering to the poor. And these are the Red devils that Mr. McNaughton would have us trade with.

There are many thousands of veterans like myself who carry battle scars from the last two wars. I, like many others, still look on them as scars of freedom, in this great and beautiful country, Canada.

REG. CLARKSON.

749 McClure Street.

Flags and Weather

The editorial in the Colonist of Jan. 25 headed "Is It Political Weather?" suggests that the statement by Defence Minister Pearkes, "Flying of flag (on the DEW Line) depends on weather," is a joke.

Actually it is very much a fact. During the gales from October to May, perhaps twice a month, and which last three to five days, not only would a flag be torn to ribbons but much of the time it would be invisible, for the wind raises a scud of fine snow high in the air, much as a desert sand storm. No ice would form. The air is bone dry and probably 25 degrees below zero.

GUY H. BLANCHET.

670 Mount Joy Avenue.

The Hammer Collection

We, the people of Victoria, owe a great debt of gratitude to those responsible for bringing the Hammer Collection into our midst. Never before has this city enjoyed such a feast.

It is not that you can stroke the fur and the velvet, taste the grapes and smell the sea; not that real things are painted with such virtuosity that they seem real, but the joie-de-vivre expressed in those pictures which will live on in the memory. The zest for life comes across the ages like a song, exhilarating and uplifting.

The skill with which the paintings are hung contributes in no small way to our pleasure. All praise to the gallery staff as well as the teachers.

EVA HINTON.

1896 Ferndale Road.

College Chessmen Seek Champion

Members of Victoria College Chess Club yesterday launched chess ladder tournament, to decide best player among club's 26 members. Play is between club president Peter Roche, left, and Dave Dawson. Kibitzers are Larry Lutz and Ian Smith.—(Photo by William A. Boucher.)

City Sailor Died in Fight

'I Saw Blood on His Neck'

VANCOUVER (CP)—When police interviewed a 19-year-old youth accused of murder, he "showed the effects of having been beaten very badly," a detective testified Monday.

Terence O'Grady, 19, of Vancouver, is charged with the murder Jan. 3 of Seaman Arlin Jackson Brown, 22, of HMCS Naden, Victoria.

Detective-Sgt. Bill Morphett told a preliminary hearing that O'Grady's left eye was closed and the left side of his face and upper lip were swollen.

Seaman Harvey Charles Tigar said he, Brown, another seaman and O'Grady's roommate, Eric Hamilton, took two bottles of rum to Hamilton's suite.

Tigar said O'Grady and Hamilton started fighting and Brown jumped in between.

"The next thing O'Grady and Brown were fighting and Hamilton came in with a knife," he testified. "I jumped him and forced the knife out of his hand."

Tigar said he didn't see anyone with the knife while Brown and O'Grady were fighting.

"Then Brown fell down. I thought he was unconscious. I slapped his face a bit—then I saw blood on his neck."

He admitted Brown was "big, strong and athletic" compared with O'Grady, who weighs about 115 pounds.

Castro Quiets Trials

HAVANA (AP) — The Havana war crimes trials reopened Monday night in a small, decorous courtroom setting in striking contrast to the noisy, spectacular first trial scene in the Sports Palace last week. Also, TV and radio coverage now are banned.

The change was ordered by the Castro revolutionary regime after a deluge of foreign criticism over the circus character imparted by the 17,000 spectators at the first trial. It ended last Friday at dawn in a verdict of death for ex-Maj. Jesus Sosa Blanco for murder and other crimes against Castro rebels fighting the regime of ex-dictator Fulgencio Batista.

The first defendant at the resumed trials was a 15-year Cuban army veteran, ex-Capt. Pedro Morejon, 38, who like Blanco was charged with assassination, homicide and robbery.

A hitch developed at the outset late Monday afternoon. The defendant could not be found and the court ordered an investigation. It turned out that someone had neglected to summon Morejon from La Cabana fortress, about six miles from the courtroom; and the trial was recessed nearly two hours while he was brought to court.

The court secretary was placed under arrest pending investigation of the delay.

Ex-Airmen Needed For Wing

Twelve former Commonwealth air force members are forming a wing of the RCAF Association in Victoria.

A membership campaign is being conducted to get about 30 members before the wing can be formed. First meeting of the group was held Saturday.

Flt.-Lt. Ross Rowlands, executive assistant to the national president of the association, told the meeting the wings are formed to keep former air force men aware of new advances, sponsor an air cadet group and serve as a type of service club.

A wing was formed in Victoria just after the war, but folded before it was a year old. Further information may be obtained from Frank Porter at EV 2-3643.

SCENIC QUEBEC

Val Brillant, Quebec village 55 miles east of Rimouski, is on Lake Matapedia, noted for its beautiful scenery.

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NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING STIMULATES BUYING

City CPR Veterans Elect H. J. Brown

H. J. Brown has been elected president of the Victoria branch of the Veterans' Association, Canadian Pacific Services.

Other members are Adam Bell, vice-president; H. B. Nash, secretary-treasurer; G. F. Simmonds, assistant secretary-treasurer; G. B. Dixon, auditor, and C. Sutherland, H. B. Shepherd, H. Bracken, E. Buxton, executive.

Elected honorary president was N. R. Crump, president of CPR; honorary first vice-president, Capt. O. J. Williams of B.C. Coast Steamships; second vice-president, Charles Chapman, Empress Hotel Manager, and third honorary vice-president, D. C. Hartley, of E. & N. Railway.

Ward 5 Liberals Elect Ketchell

Harold Ketchell was elected president at the annual meeting of Victoria Ward 5 Liberal Association.

Others elected were: Mrs. Rena Patenaude, vice-president; Mrs. Evelyn MacKenzie, secretary; and E. B. Joyce, treasurer.

George Gregory will speak at a joint meeting of all Victoria wards Feb. 5.

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